

as much if not more than any other nation on the list.

Malaysia, whose ranking was upgraded to the Tier 2 Watch List last year on the flimsiest of justifications and fears it would be disqualified from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, was allowed to maintain its Tier 2 Watch List ranking—despite the fact that Malaysia faltered in its anti-trafficking progress over the last year. In fact, Malaysia, a country with 4 million migrant workers, prosecuted fewer trafficking cases and convicted only 7 traffickers last year—that's less than when it was a Tier 3 country.

Meanwhile, women from Burma, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Nepal are trafficked to China for forced marriages or sexual exploitation. North Korean laborers worked under conditions described by experts as forced or slave labor to earn income for the North Korean government. Prisoners of conscience and other prisoners continue to be held in administration detention facilities where there are numerous credible reports of prisoners being trafficked for the purpose of organ harvesting.

The State Department must get the TIP Report right, or we will lose the foundational tool created to help the more than 20 million victims of trafficking enslaved around the world today.

A tier ranking is about protecting vulnerable lives—lives destroyed or saved by the on-the-ground impact of a government's inaction or action.

The easiest cases for a Tier 3 ranking should be those where the government itself is profiting from human trafficking, such as in Cuba, where thousands of Cuban medical professionals labor in dangerous countries not of their choosing, their passports taken, their movements restricted, their families and licenses threatened—and their salaries heavily garnished—by the Cuban government. It is not a coincidence that Cuban law does not recognize labor trafficking.

Maria Werlau testified at our hearing in March that, "... trafficking is a huge operation run by the government through numerous state enterprises with ... accomplices, participants, sponsors, and promoters all over the world." Cuba is also a known destination for child sex tourists, and Cuba reports no convictions for child sex tourism.

Yet, Cuba is ranked Tier 2 Watch List.

We've seen many countries take a Tier 3 ranking seriously and make real, systemic changes that improved their tier rankings, but more importantly, protected trafficking victims—countries such as South Korea and Israel.

When the Bush administration branded South Korea and Israel Tier 3 based on their records, both countries enacted and implemented policies to combat human trafficking and were given earned upgrades for their verifiable actions. But other countries attempt to end-run the accountability system with endless, empty promises of action or mostly meaningless gestures of compliance.

China sat on the Tier 2 Watch List for eight years, each year promising the State Department they would implement their anti-trafficking plan. Each year, the State Department took the bait until Congress put a limit on the Tier 2 Watch List—two years only, unless the President gives the country a waiver. Well, China has once again promised to implement

a plan—and the President just gave them a waiver to stay on the Watch List a third year.

Tier rankings are about real prosecutions, real prevention, and real protection—for real people who are suffering as slaves. The TIP Report was meant to speak for the trafficking victims waiting, hoping, and praying for relief.

While the 2016 TIP Report speaks for many of them, too many are still unheard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION ON CONCURRING IN THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO S. 764

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for the vote on concurring in the Senate Amendment to the House Amendment to S. 764, dealing with labeling requirements for genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Had I been here, I would have supported this legislation as a step forward in improving consumers' right to know more about the products they consume.

I appreciate that many of my constituents, like many across the country, have expressed a desire to know whether the food they purchase and consume contains GMO ingredients. However, the status quo does not work for consumers, for manufacturers, or for our country.

Today, if a consumer wants to know more about where the ingredients in their food come from, it is far from an easy process. Some manufacturers choose to print it on the packaging, others don't. Some define a genetically modified ingredient one way, others another.

There's not much more clarity right now for food manufacturers. Depending on the state or even city, they may face different requirements about what foods to label, what ingredients need to be labeled, or how the label should look. Many companies have started taking steps to provide more information, but the lack of a consistent standard makes it difficult for consumers to access this information in an easy way.

The bill that came before the House is not perfect, but I believe it moves us in the right direction. It creates a national standard, instead of a patchwork of state and local laws. And under this standard, it will be mandatory, not voluntary, for manufacturers to disclose whether a product has genetically-modified ingredients, which will now be clearly defined.

The measure includes some flexibility for manufacturers to determine for their products what format makes the most sense for this disclosure, but I am pleased that there are clear requirements in place that this disclosure must meet. There is certainly more that can be done to build awareness about what to look for on packaging and how the information can be used, and so I believe this bill can be the first step in a process of education and information-sharing that will help consumers. I also believe the use of electronic scannable codes holds a lot of promise, particularly as manufacturers come together to standardize the codes and information that is provided. I strongly feel that this information should remain easily accessible to the consumer, so

that once a code is scanned, there is a direct link to information such as GMO disclosure, ingredients, and nutrition facts. I am heartened that many manufacturers have begun recognizing the need to make this information clearly available, and I look forward to continued progress in this area.

Overall, I believe that the legislation considered by the House is a needed step forward from the situation we have today, and a significant improvement from previous legislation that did not require the kind of labeling that consumers have asked for. I support this version of the legislation, and I look forward to continuing to work to strengthen our food safety, nutrition, and anti-hunger laws and programs so that all consumers are able to access healthy, affordable food for themselves and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 467 (H.R. 5631), which took place Thursday July 14, 2016; I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE. I firmly stand with my colleagues in the House in support of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016.

RECOGNIZING WARE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ware County High School Robotics Team for winning the world championship at the 2016 Vex World Robotics Championship in Louisville, Kentucky.

The students of Ware County High submitted two robots into the tournament—2015C, known as C-Bot, and 2015A, known as A-Bot.

Both robots performed extremely well in Louisville, in the qualifying rounds. C-Bot won 4th place in programming skills while A-Bot finished with a high ranking in technology skills. Each robot finished in the top 50 within their divisions.

Because of its performance in the qualifying rounds, the C-Bot was chosen to be part of a small team to compete for the world title where it was allied with robots from Connecticut.

This alliance won the final competition for the world championship.

The world title is an impressive achievement as 500 teams from North and South America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East competed for the prestigious honor.

I rise today to congratulate the Ware County High students on their hard work and achievement as they bring world-wide recognition to their school and the First Congressional District of Georgia.